

THE CLEVELAND, CHINA MAIL
(PUBLISHED EVERY MAIL DAY.)
Contains the Week's News of Hongkong and the Far East.
Price (including Postage) to any part of the world \$15. per annum.

The China Mail.

ESTABLISHED 1840

Orders for the "China Mail" and "Canton Mail" may be made to our Agents at the following ports:—
Canton, PATEL & Co.
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Shanghai, SHAW & Sons.
Yokohama, SHAW & Sons.
Hankow, SHAW & Sons.
Hull, J. A. S. WATSON & Co. Ltd.

No. 16498.

號七廿月三年六十百九千壹英

HONGKONG, MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1916.

辰丙次歲年五國民華中

PRICE, \$8.00 Per Month

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
Wine & Spirit Merchants
ESTABLISHED 74 YEARS
Agents for—
W. & A. GILBEY'S
WINE & SPIRITS.

JOHN DEWAR & SON'S
SCOTCH WHISKY.
JOHN JEFFREY & CO.'S
PILSENER BEER.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ROUTE MARCH
This parade, ordered for Friday, March 31st, is postponed to Friday, April 7th.
MAXIM GUNNERS.
Will parade at Central at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, March 29th and 31st.
NO. 2 COMPANY.
At the meeting of representatives of No. 2 Company on Wednesday, March 29th, six men from each Section (not each Platoon) will attend.
ROLL BOOK.
In Part C, paragraph 8, of the Organisation Notification of March 24th, add:—
D. for On Police Duty.
LEAVE SOLUTIONS.
The words "Platoon Commander" must in future be read "Section Commander."
PROMOTIONS, EXTENSIONS &c.
The Hon. C. S. P. has sanctioned the following promotion:—
Sergeant Fung Yung-Fong to be Crown Sergeant.
P.C. Wong Cho Tung to be Sergeant.
P.C. Wong Tze Leung to be Sergeant.
P.C. Chin Ching Po to be Sergeant and Equipment Officer.
D.S. F. Orderly Wong Shau Min to be Sergeant.
Bandman J. D. Osmund to be Sergeant.
N. 2 Company—G. M. Santos, (Sgd.) F. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (Reserve).



NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, NON ASIATIC or INDIAN, desiring to leave the Colony should apply in writing for permission to do so to the Captain Superintendent of Police, at least 48 hours before the intended hour of departure, giving name, nationality, age, sex, height and occupation of the applicant, and stating the name of the steamer or other vessel or the hours of the train by which the applicant wishes to leave. Applicants should apply in person for their passes at the Central Police Station between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

PEAK TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

TIME TABLE.
WEEK DAYS.
7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
11.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.45 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
2.15 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
5.00 p.m. to 8.10 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
NIGHT CARS.
8.50 p.m. and 9 p.m., 9.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. every half hour.
11.00 p.m. to 11.45 p.m. every quarter of an hour.
SUNDAY.
7.45 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
11.30 a.m. to 12 Noon Every 15 minutes.
12 Noon to 1.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
8.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
7.00 p.m. to 8.10 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
NIGHT CARS on Week Days.
SATURDAY.
Extra Car at 12 midnight.
SPECIAL CARS by arrangement at the Company's Office, ALEXANDRA BUILDING, Des Voeux Road Central.
Season and punch tickets available for all cars not already full running at the time stated in the Company's time tables, but not for special cars, can be obtained on application at the Company's Office.
No Season ticket will be issued until payment therefor has been made in Bank Notes or by Cheque or Comprode order representing Bank Notes.
JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON
General Managers.

ALEXANDRA CAFE.
OYSTERS Fresh, Fried or Stewed.
Windsor Haddock, Kippers, &c.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

STEAM OR MOTOR VESSELS
8,000 Tons, 8,000 Horse Power now Built.
Steel Buildings Work of Every Description.
Castings Forgings, Repairs and Supplies.
Prompt Attention and Shipment to Destinations.

W. S. BAILEY & Co., Ltd.
ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS.
KOWLOON, HAY

WE HAVE RECEIVED NEW STOCKS OF

JEFFREY'S PILSENER BEER

(BREWED IN SCOTLAND.)

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
HONGKONG.
Telephone No. 618.

LA "GIRALDA" MANILA CIGARS.

Excellentes	in boxes of 25	\$4.50
Imperiales	" "	25 3.25
Especiales La Giralda	" "	25 3.00
Perfectos	" "	25 2.75
Perlas	" "	25 1.90
Estrellas	" "	50 4.50
Reina Victoria	" "	100 8.00

SOLE AGENTS:

HONGKONG CIGAR STORE.

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING Co., Ltd.

Established 1833

MANUFACTURERS OF

PURE Manila ROPE

STRAND 1" to 15" CIRCUMFERENCE.	CABLE LAD 5" to 15" CIRCUMFERENCE.	4-STRAND 3" to 10" CIRCUMFERENCE.
---------------------------------------	--	---

Oil Drilling Cables of any size up to 3,000 feet in length.

Prices, Samples and full particulars will be forwarded on application to
Shewan Tomes & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, April 11, 1912.

"MUMEYA"

"While-you-wait" Photography
JUST ARRIVED FROM JAPAN A FULLY QUALIFIED ARTIST WITH
APPARATUS AND MATERIALS WHICH CAN FINISH
IN AN HOUR.
PRICE 2.00 per 3 pos. on Post Cards.
No. 84, Queen's Road Central.
TELE: No. 254

BUSINESS NOTICES.

THE TAIKOO DOCKYARD AND ENGINEERING CO. OF HONGKONG, LTD.

TAIKOO DOCKYARD, HONGKONG.

SHIPBUILDERS, SALVORS AND REPAIRERS, BOILERMAKERS, FURF. MASTERS, BRASS AND IRON FOUNDERS, CONSTRUCTIONAL, ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.
WELDING AND CUTTING OF METALS BY OXY-ACETYLENE AND ELECTRIC SYSTEMS.

Estimates given for quick construction and repair of Ships, Engines, Boilers, Railway Rolling Stock, Bridges, and all Classes of Engineering, Iron and Wood Work.

GRAVING DOCK 72' x 83' x 54'
Pump empty Dock in 2-3/4 hours.

THREE PATENT SLIPWAYS taking vessels up to 3,000 tons displacement, providing conditions for painting ships with most efficient results.

100-Ton ELECTRIC CRANE ON QUAY—ELECTRIC OVERHEAD CRANES throughout the Shops ranging up to 100 Tons.
50-Ton Hydraulic TESTING MACHINE for Chains, Wire Ropes, Rivets, etc.

AGENTS FOR—
JOHN L. THORNYCROFT & CO., LTD.

PETROL & KEROSENE MARINE MOTORS 7-1/2 to 150 H.P.
As supplied to the British Admiralty and War Office.
MOTOR VESSELS, LIGHT DRAFT CARRIERS, GUNBOATS, LAUNCHES, HOUSEBOATS & PLEASURE CRAFT OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
MOTOR PUMPING & LIGHTING SETS, MOTOR VEHICLES, etc.
Dockyard Manager can be seen between the hours of 11 a.m. and 12 noon at the Town Office.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE
HONGKONG, CHINA AND JAPAN, AGENTS.

Telegraphic Address:—TAIKOODOCK. Telephone No. 212.

VICTORIA THEATRE

Wednesday MATINEE Wednesday.

Tom Melbourne Comedy Coy. in

"The Sentry Box" "The Soldier and the Maid" and H. K. Suffragette.

BOOKING NOW OPEN AT THEATRE.

THURSDAY, 30th MARCH.

GRAND GALA NIGHT FOR THE H.K. OVERSEAS CLUB BED IN NETLEY HOSPITAL.

Under the Distinguished Patronage of
H. E. The Governor Sir FRANCIS HENRY MAY,
H. E. General H. VENTURA,
Rear Admiral ANSTUTHER,
Officers of the Naval and Military Forces.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL

AND

GRILL ROOM

J. B. TAGGART,
MANAGER.

PEAK HOTEL

ADAMANTLY SITUATED AT VICTORIA GAP,
Adjacent to the Tramway Terminus, 1,400 feet above Sea Level.
A FIRST CLASS FAMILY, RESIDENTIAL AND TOURIST HOTEL.
Telephones in all rooms. First-class Cuisine, Lounge, Smoking and Ladies' rooms.
Roof Garden.
Terrace—From \$5 per day Max.
Telegraph Add: "Peak Hotel," P.O. PEUSTNER, Manager.

KING EDWARD HOTEL

Central Location.
All Electric, Trains Pass entrance, Electric Lifts, Fans and Lighting, European Baths and Sanitary Fixings, Hot and Cold Water System throughout.
Best of Food and Service.
Telephones 572.
Telegraphic Address: "Victoria,"
J. WITKELL, Manager.

PATELL & CO.

Importers-Exporters

Commission Agents
HONGKONG.

Branches:
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.
BOMBAY, INDIA.

China:
HANKOW,
SHANGHAI,
CANTON

SIEN TING

Succession Dentist
No. 14, D'ARQUER STREET.
TERMS VERY MODERATE
Consultation.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LD

Portland Cement

In Casks of 97 1/2 lbs. net.

In Bags of 250 lbs. net.

Shewan, Tomes & Co.

GENERAL MANAGERS.

HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO & WEST RIVER STEAMERS

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD. AND THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO. LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

HONGKONG TO CANTON. CANTON TO HONGKONG.
MONDAY, 27th MARCH.
8 A.M. 'HONGSHAN' 5 P.M. 'HONAM'
10 P.M. 'HONAM'

TUESDAY, 28th MARCH.
8 A.M. 'KINSHAN' 5 P.M. 'HONGSHAN'
10 P.M. 'HONGSHAN'

Single Fare by Night Steamer \$6.00
Return Fare by Night (available also for Return by day Steamer) 10.00
Single Fare by Day Steamer 4.00
Return Fare by Day Steamer 8.00

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. 'TAI SHAN' Tons 1008 | S.S. 'SUI TAI' Tons 1051

HONGKONG TO MACAO.

Week days at 8 A.M. and 2 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

Sundays at 9 A.M. and 1 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

MACAO TO HONGKONG.

Week days at 7.30 A.M. and 2 P.M. Sundays at 7.30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.

SUNDAY, 2nd APRIL.

The Company's Steamship "TAISHAN,"

will depart from the COMPANY'S WING LOK STREET WHARF at 9 A.M.

and return from Macao at 3 P.M.

N.B.—The Company will also run a steamer from Macao on Sunday morning at 7.30 A.M. and from Hongkong at 1 P.M. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

CANTON-MACAO LINE.

S.S. 'SUI-TAI'.

Departure from Macao to Canton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9 P.M.

Departure from Canton to Macao on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 4.30 P.M.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD., AND THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

CANTON-WUHOH LINE.

S.S. 'SAIKAM' 588 Tons, and S.S. 'NANSUNG' 468 Tons.

One of the above Steamers leaves Canton for Wuohow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at about 8 A.M., and the other leaves Wuohow for Canton on the same days at 8.30 A.M. Round trips take about 5 days. Passengers can return to Hongkong or vice versa by the Company's direct Steamers "LINTIAN" and "SANKU". These vessels have superior China accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity. Electric Pies in each Cabin.

Booking Office open daily (Sunday excepted) 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.,

HOTEL MANSIONS (First Floor),

Opposite the Black Flag.

ALEXANDRA CAFE.

We Serve the Best Tiffin or Dinner in Hongkong for \$1.00.

Roast Ready for the Table Hot or Cold Roast Turkey, Geese, Pheasants, Sirloin of Beef, Saddle of Mutton &c., Pork Sausages (own make) Game Pies, Pork Pies, Plum Puddings, Minced Meat, Minced Pies.

Bournville

The "COCOA de Luxe"

HIGHEST GRADE
BRITISH MADE

"BOURNVILLE COCOA" represents the highest grade of nutritive cocoa preparation on the market; it fully maintains its high reputation in food value and delicacy of flavour, and is second to none in any respect whatsoever.
The Words of Purity.
British Magazine, March, 1912.

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATES

In Tins and Fancy Boxes
Specially Packed for Export

Hongkong, Dec. 11, 1900.



Hughes and Hough
AUCTIONEERS TO THE GOVERNMENT
AND ADMIRALTY.

General Auctioneers
AND
Share, Coal, and
General Brokers.

PROPRIETORS
"IO-KWA-WAN"
COAL STORAGE.

Codes used
A.B.C. 4th & 5th EDITIONS.
A.1. TELEGRAPHIC CODE.
Telegraphic Address
MEIRION HONGKONG.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction,

TUESDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 2.30 p.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street.

ONE SET OF SADDLERY &c.
BY MARTINS, BIRMINGHAM.
PRACTICALLY NEW.
Terms:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 24, 1918. 464

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction,

TUESDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, commencing at 10.45 a.m., within the premises of the Club Germania, Kennedy Road, THE WHOLE OF THE

VALUABLE FURNITURE, ELECTRIC FANS, LIGHT AND GAS FITTINGS, GLASSWARE AND CROCKERY, ELECTRO-PLATE, BED AND TABLE LINEN.

Large solid oak wood Bar Furniture with bevelled mirrors, massive oakwood over-mantels, extra long gilt framed mirrors, oakwood, library bookshelves, leather covered, and oak and cane arm-chairs, a number of bedroom suites, wardrobes, single beds, dressing tables, washstands, chairs, &c., a large quantity of electro-plate ware by Muehle and Webb, London. (A lot of this is quite new and in original wrappings), table linen and napery of excellent quality, "unmarked," some of which is new stock, &c., &c., &c., &c.

Also
Three good Billiard tables with all accessories, one of these tables is practically new, grand Piano by Steinway, New York, and a lot of bowling alley requisites, Lawn Tennis Gear, &c.
On view from Saturday the 25th. Catalogues will be sent.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 24, 1918. 471

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from Dr. Franke, to sell by Public Auction,

THURSDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 2.30 p.m., at "Hartley," No. 7, Robinson Road, THE

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

comprising—
Teak Hall Stands and Tables, Dining Room Suite including Large Teakwood Screen practically new, Fender Seats, etc., Glass Ware, Sundry Table Linen, etc., Large Chesterfield Sofa and Arm-chairs with Covers, Blackwood Cabinets, Flower Stands, Side Tables, etc., Large Teakwood Bedstead, Wardrobes, Toilet Tables, etc., (practically new), Bathroom, Pantry and Kitchen Utensils.

Also
2 Electric Fans, Electric Cooking Stove, Toaster, Nursery Fire Guard, Hand Sewing Machine "Singer," Garden Tent, Plants in Pots, and Piano by Montie in very good condition.
(Full Particulars from Catalogue.)
On view from Wednesday the 27th inst. Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 22, 1918. 463

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction,

THURSDAY,

the 28th April, 1918, commencing at 11 a.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street.

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Removed from "Ridge House," Broadwood Road, for Convenience of Sale.
Comprising—
Teakwood Dining Wagon, Chesterfield Sofa, Blackwood Cabinets, Teakwood Cabinets, Glassware, Dinner Service, Cutlery and E.P. Ware, Cushions, Carpets and Rugs, Large Wardrobe with Bevelled Mirrors, Double Brass Bed, &c., &c., &c.
Also
15-inch Electric Fan, Copper Boiler and 2 Mountain Chairs.
Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 25, 1918. 476

AUCTIONS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED), on

TUESDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 2.30 p.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street.

ONE SET OF SADDLERY &c.
BY MARTINS, BIRMINGHAM.
PRACTICALLY NEW.
Terms:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 24, 1918. 464

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TUESDAY,

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VALUABLE FURNITURE, ELECTRIC FANS, LIGHT AND GAS FITTINGS, GLASSWARE AND CROCKERY, ELECTRO-PLATE, BED AND TABLE LINEN.

Large solid oak wood Bar Furniture with bevelled mirrors, massive oakwood over-mantels, extra long gilt framed mirrors, oakwood, library bookshelves, leather covered, and oak and cane arm-chairs, a number of bedroom suites, wardrobes, single beds, dressing tables, washstands, chairs, &c., a large quantity of electro-plate ware by Muehle and Webb, London. (A lot of this is quite new and in original wrappings), table linen and napery of excellent quality, "unmarked," some of which is new stock, &c., &c., &c., &c.

Also
Three good Billiard tables with all accessories, one of these tables is practically new, grand Piano by Steinway, New York, and a lot of bowling alley requisites, Lawn Tennis Gear, &c.
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Also
2 Electric Fans, Electric Cooking Stove, Toaster, Nursery Fire Guard, Hand Sewing Machine "Singer," Garden Tent, Plants in Pots, and Piano by Montie in very good condition.
(Full Particulars from Catalogue.)
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VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

THE WAR.

(Continued from Page 5.)

SUNDAY'S TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

NAVAL FIGHT.

GERMAN RAIDER AND BRITISH MERCHANT CRUISER SUNK.

A DELAYED ANNOUNCEMENT.

London, Mar. 25.

The Admiralty announces an engagement on February 20th in the North Sea with an armed German raider called the *Greif*, disguised as a Norwegian merchantman, and the British merchant cruiser *Alcantara*.

The engagement resulted in the loss of both vessels—the raider by gunfire and the *Alcantara* by torpedo.

Five German officers and 185 men were picked up and made prisoners out of a complement of 300.

Five British officers and 69 men were lost.

During the whole engagement the Germans fired over the Norwegian colours painted on the side of the ship.

The news is now published because it is known that Germany has learnt that the *Greif*, a similar ship to the *Moscow*, had been destroyed before passing the British patrols.

CROSS-CHANNEL STEAMER TORPEDOED.

350 PASSENGERS SAVED.

London, March 25.

The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Co's steamer *Sussex* was torpedoed this afternoon between Dieppe and Folkestone.

There were 350 passengers on board, mostly French, and a crew of 50, also French.

The latest account is that the steamer is still afloat and that vessels are standing by.

ALL PASSENGERS SAVED.

LATER.

The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway announces that all the passengers on the *Sussex* have been saved.

The *Sussex* left Folkestone at 1.25 in the afternoon and met with the mishap when near Dieppe. The ship was still afloat at 9.30 in the evening.

MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON BOARD.

It is stated in Folkestone that the *Sussex* was carrying Indian and Colonial mails.

There were many women and children among the passengers and also 30 Americans.

The *Sussex* was torpedoed amidships at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The torpedo crashed into the engine-room, injuring several hands.

This was the first daylight passage for a fortnight.

LATER.

It is officially announced that the *Sussex* was towed into Boulogne this morning.

DOMINION LINER SUNK.

68 SURVIVORS PICKED UP.

London, March 25.

The Dominion liner *Englishman* has been sunk. Up to the present 68 survivors have been picked up.

MORE SHIPS SUNK.

London, Mar. 25.

The steamers *Fulmar* and *Salbia* (British) and the *Christiansand* (Danish) have been sunk.

Eighteen of the *Fulmar's* crew and all of the others were saved.

[The *Fulmar* was a steamer of 1,270 tons belonging to the Cork Steamship Co., Ltd. She was built in 1902.]

The *Salbia*, 8,226 tons, built in 1902, belonged to Messrs. J. Broadhead and Sons, South Shields.]

SINKING OF THE "PALEMBANG."

ENQUIRY ORDERED.

London, March 24.

The Dutch Naval authorities have ordered an enquiry into the sinking of the *Palembang*.

GERMAN SUBMARINE MENACE.

DUTCH SAILORS REFUSE TO SAIL.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 24.

The Dutch Sailors' Union have overwhelmingly decided not to sail in view of the German submarine menace.

ARMED MERCHANTMEN QUESTION.

MR. LANSING TO EXPLAIN AMERICA'S ATTITUDE.

Wellington, March 25.

It is announced that the *Enterprise*, replying separately, declined Mr. Lansing's suggestion to disarm merchantmen.

It is understood that Mr. Lansing is preparing a circular explaining the attitude of the United States on the question.

THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE.

RUSSIANS MAKE IMPORTANT CAPTURES.

Petrograd, March 25.

A communiqué states that the Russians ousted the enemy from the woods in the Blisnik region, south of Lake Narotch, which were strongly organised and thickly enveloped with barbed wire.

The Russians captured 1,273 prisoners, 18 maxima, 39 mortars and much material during the fighting at Lake Narotch between the 18th and 21st inst.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN DVINSK REGION.

Petrograd, March 24.

A communiqué states: The Russians repulsed strong attacks in the Jacobstadt sector.

The Russian offensive to the north-west of lake Vargunsk is developing.

In the Dvinsk region the Russian troops are advancing after repulsing several counter-attacks.

There was desperate fighting, partly with the bayonet in the Vidy and Klipa sectors. Despite violent fire the Russians forced all the enemy defences and counter attacks were repulsed.

INCESSANT FIGHTING FOR TWO MONTHS.

London, March 24.

An interesting description of the fight for the bridgehead at Michaleza on the Daister, which was captured by the Russians a week ago, is given in a Budapest despatch which states that the fighting was incessant there for two months. The Austrians made the bridgehead a regular fortress, with underground tunnels and cemented dug-outs. Field-Marshal von Hindenburg almost daily enquired how the fighting was progressing, as the bridgehead was regarded as a most important garrison and it was ordered to be retained at any price.

AUSTRIAN DREAD OF COMBINED OFFENSIVES.

The Austrians dread the combined Russo-Italian offensives, as they will require a million more men to keep the line intact, and they have only six hundred thousand in training, including thals at levies, which comprise men up to 50 years old.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN CAUCASUS AND PERSIA.

Petrograd, March 25.

The Russian advance continues in the Caucasus and Persia.

SATISFACTORY POSITION IN EGYPT.

REORGANISATION OF THE FORCES.

London, March 24.

In view of the satisfactory military position in Egypt, resulting from the Turkish failure on the western frontier, a re-organisation of the forces of the country has been effected.

General Sir Archibald Murray has assumed sole command in Egypt and General Sir John Maxwell has left for England.

RESCUING THE SENUSSEI PRISONERS.

London, March 24.

It is officially announced that the rescue of the Senussi's prisoners, effected on the 17th inst., was entirely apart from the engagement on the 14th inst.

Nine armoured cars, 26 other cars and ten motor ambulances left Sollum at 3 o'clock in the morning for Sirhakim, 70 miles distant, where the prisoners were reported, but the distance travelled was 121 miles. The guards fled but were pursued and killed. All the cars returned safely. Those rescued are now in hospital and their condition is satisfactory.

Only two prisoners are now in the enemy's hands and it is hoped to rescue them.

THE STRUGGLE FOR VERDUN.

MORE FURIOUS ASSAULTS THAN EVER IMMINENT.

PARIS, Mar. 24.

It is semi-officially stated that the enemy's intense artillery preparation on the whole front of Verdun indicates that more furious assaults than ever are imminent, but, owing to the reduction in the enemy's effectiveness, the renewed attempt will probably be localised on a sector of a few kilometres. Wherever the enemy strikes the French troops are ready to break his on-rush.

General Haig's latest communiqué records, for the first time, fighting in the new sector recently taken over by the British from the French, extending from Souchez to north of Arras, facing the German stronghold of Vimy ridge.

A TRANQUIL PERIOD.

The most significant feature of today's communiqué is that on the west of the Meuse the night was calm, while to the east of the Meuse there was only intermittent bombardment at Douaumont and Dambloup.

It is the most tranquil period since the battle of Verdun started 83 days ago.

There were artillery duels in Woëvre and the French batteries were energetic in Argonne.

FIGHT FOR TRENCHEES.

PARIS, Mar. 25.

Today's communiqué states:—In Argonne the Germans gained a momentary footing in the French first line at Vauquois, but were ejected by a counter-attack in which the French captured 50 prisoners.

The French artillery activity continued intense against the enemy lines of communication in eastern Argonne and against Bois de Malancourt and Avocourt.

Nothing important occurred north of Verdun except intermittent bombardment of the French second line to the west and to the east of the Meuse, to which the French batteries vigorously replied.

One shot from a French long range gun against the station at Vignoulles, north-east of St. Mihiel, demolished a shed and blew up a train.

AUSTRALIA'S AID.

MELBOURNE, Mar. 25.

The Hon. Mr. G. F. Pearce, Minister for Defence, has announced that 200,500 troops will have been sent abroad by June. An additional 60,000 are in training and he did not doubt that not only will they be able to find reinforcements to keep the units at full strength, but they would be able later to form another division.

GRECE'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

PARTIAL DEMOBILISATION ALLOWED.

ATHENS, Mar. 24.

Owing to financial difficulties the Government has allowed demobilisation to the extent of 30 per cent.

RUMANIA'S BUDGET.

INCREASE IN WAR EXPENDITURE.

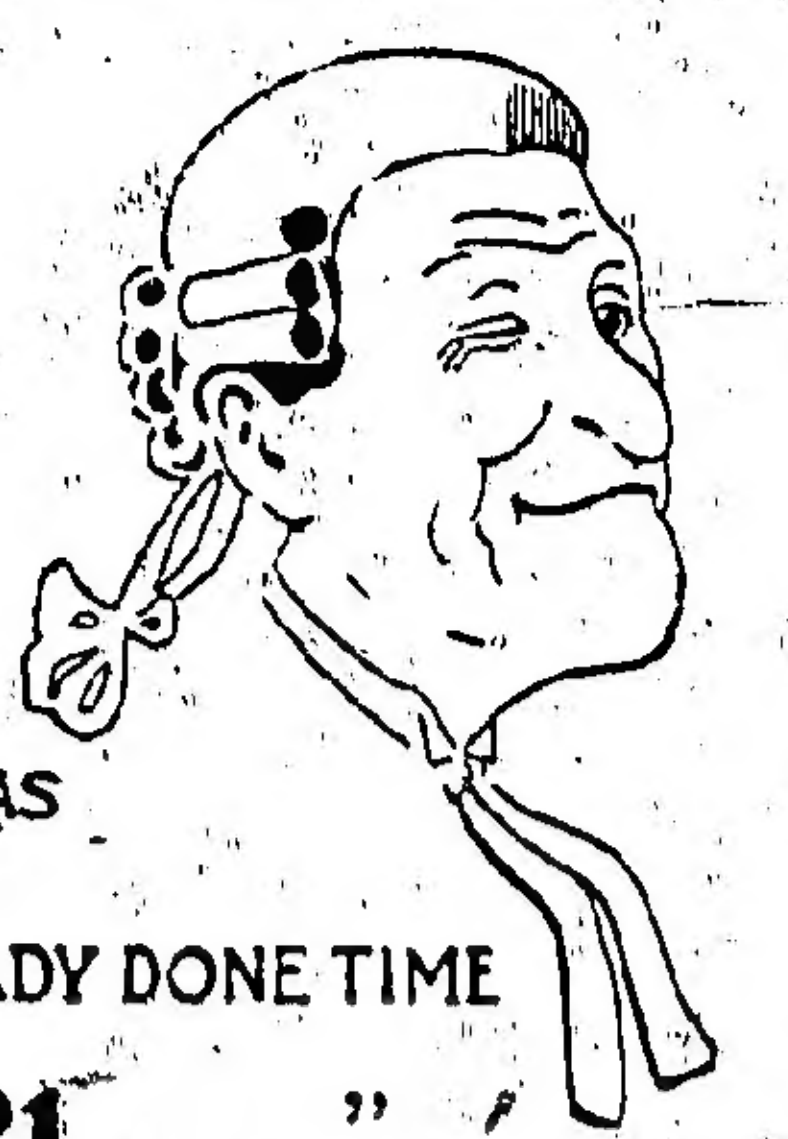
London, March 24.

The Rumanian Budget shows an increase of half a million in war expenditure.

GERMAN WAR LOAN.

AMSTERDAM, March 24.

In the Reichstag, Dr. Helfferich, the Minister of Finance, announced that subscriptions to the last war loan amounted to ten thousand six hundred million marks.

WATSON'S OLD BROWN
LIQUEUR BRANDY

E

QUALITY

TRY IT

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IT HAS

ALREADY DONE TIME
"21 YEARS IN WOOD"

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HongKong and China.

W.M. POWELL, LTD.

TEL 348

SMART -
WHITE
SHOESFOR THE COMING
SEASON.

NOW ON SHOW.

NEWEST MODELS.

LADIES' SHOE
DEPARTMENT.

THE DIARY.

MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

10.45 a.m.—Auction of Furniture, Fittings, etc. at the German Club Premises.
11.30 a.m.—Hongkong Ice Co's. Meeting.
Noon.—H.K. Fire Insurance Co's. Meeting.
2.30 p.m.—Auction of Saddlery at Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.
2.30 p.m.—Auction of Furniture, Crockery, Pianos, etc., at Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.
4 p.m.—Annual Meeting of the H.K. Gen. Chamber of Commerce.

General Memoranda.

WEDNESDAY, March 28—
Hongkong Stock Exchange Settlement Day.
11.30 a.m.—China Sugar Refining Co's. Meeting.
THURSDAY, March 29—
2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furniture at "Hartley," No. 7 Basington Path.
3.30 & 4 p.m.—Annual and Extraordinary Meetings of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong.
8.15 p.m.—Annual General Meeting of the Phoenix Club, Ltd.
FRIDAY, March 30—
Prince Henry's birthday (1860).
11.30 a.m.—Luzon Sugar Refining Co's. Meeting.
11.35 a.m.—Luzon Sugar Refining Co's. Extraordinary Meeting.
SATURDAY, April 1—
Gold Competition at Fan Ling for H.B. the Governor's Prize.
SUNDAY, April 2—
9 a.m.—Excursion to Maipo by s.s. "Tahiti".
MONDAY, April 3—
Noon.—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co's. Meeting.
WEDNESDAY, April 5—
Entire close for first Gynkhan.
THURSDAY, April 6—
11 a.m.—Auction of Household Furniture, etc. at Messrs. Hughes and Hough's.
SATURDAY, April 8—
Entire close for Hongkong Tennis League.
SAT. & SUN., April 9—
Mixed Fourmance Competition at Deep Water Bay.

previous attacks have been delivered via: On the Western front, Champagne and Artois; on the Russian front, the far north and the southern wing; on the Italian front, the Isonzo line and possibly in the Fellah Valley toward Turin; in the Balkan theatre, southern Macedonia; on the Caucasian front, the Lake Urumia district. Time will show—and that soon—whether these conclusions are sound.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A Chinaman, aged 37 years, has been sent to the Government Hospital suffering from injuries sustained by being knocked down by a motor car.

Sixteen cases of small pox were notified in the Colony last week. Thirteen cases proved fatal. Other cases of communicable disease notified were two fatal cases of plague; one fatal case of diphtheria; four cases of enteric fever (three fatal); and one fatal case of puerperal fever.

Mr. J. A. Dove, of 4 Blue Buildings, has reported to the police that last night while riding in a rickshaw, the rickshaw suddenly dropped the shafts and two other men came up and relieved him of a gold watch, with gold chain attached, which had been presented to him by the Corinthian Yacht Club.

On the pretence of enquiring for a former agent, three Chinese visited the c.m. at the London Mission, 2 D'Almeida Street, on Saturday afternoon. The cook told them the woman had gone, but instead of departing one man whipped out a revolver and levelled it at him. The other two pressed him down and gagged him. They then ransacked the room but did not steal anything as there was nothing to take except valueless clothing.

THE STATE COUNCIL OF CHINA.

SUGGESTED DISSOLUTION.

A Peking telegram says that of yesterday's State Council, when the Chief Executive was represented by Chu Sai Chung, Kong Hon suggested that as the Council had grossly erred—though luckily the Chief Executive had issued a mandate blaming himself—the Council had lost the confidence of the people and should be dissolved.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

MONTHLY BOGEY POOL.

Played at Failing in March:—
Mr. G. A. Tisdall All Squares.
A. E. Dale 1 down.
R. E. Birtch 1 down.
C. H. G. 1 down.
P. M. Hodgson 1 down.
G. S. Archibald 1 down.
R. E. Macdonald 1 down.
C. B. Johnson 2 down.
A. E. Campbell 2 down.
E. Gollard 2 down.
C. H. P. Hay 3 down.
F. Kinch Smith 3 down.

WAR HOSPITAL NEEDS.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GIFTS FROM HONGKONG.

The following letter has been received from Colonel Gordon Hall, R.A.M.C., Cairo, by Mrs. Macdonald, President of the Ladies Committee Union Church:—
Headquarters, Abasia, Cairo.
18th February, 1918.

DEAR MADAM.—Your letter of the 29th Dec. was received by me some time ago and about four days ago the parcels came in. As I have left the 10th General Hospital now and am on the Staff of the General in Cairo, I sent on the parcels at once and have just received the enclosed from Lt. Colonel Scott. You will see that he has written to Mrs. A. Gibson, so I am not writing as well. They will be most useful when we begin to move and the sick and wounded come in. At present we are simply making up the Division after the return from Gallipoli and really all the Hospitals are practically empty.

I enclose a list of articles that would be useful, and anything that the people at Hongkong would care to send me will be carefully given out either to the Hospitals here or at Alexandria, and a receipt sent showing which Hospital has got them.

Thanking you all so much again for kindly thinking of the wounded soldiers. Believe me,

Sincerely Yours,

F. W. GORDON HALL.

[ENCLOSURE]

Tobacco, pipes, cigarettes, mufflers, gray cloth, pyjama suits, warm socks and vests, khaki shirts, khaki collars, warm overcoats (soft and large), covers for hot water bottles, draw sheets made of old wraps of innies (Japanese puzzles), (and good), pillow cases, Japanese or Chinese brass pots for flowers in vases, dressing gowns, towels of any sort for the men, Balaclava caps or helmets and napkins to tie under necks of helpless patients when being fed.

RUB IT IN.

A GOOD many people think rheumatism can't be cured without taking nauseous medicine. Chamberlain's Pain Balm managed thoroughly into the skin and cured far more rheumatism than any internal remedy in existence and gives relief quicker. For sale by all Chemists.

SHANGHAI AND THE
OPIUM QUESTION.PROPOSED TAXATION OF
OPIUM MERCHANTS.INTERESTING DEBATE AT RATE-
PAYERS MEETING.

At the annual meeting of the ratepayers of Shanghai held on March 21st Mr. E. S. Little brought forward an amendment to the Budget resolution in the following terms:—

"That there be added to the Budget the following tax namely:—

Foreign and Chinese opium merchants, or dealers, 1,000 per chest of opium, 10,000,000."

Mr. Little said—I am introducing by this amendment no new or revolutionary principle into the Budget. If you will look under "Rates, Taxes, Dues and Fees" on page 39, you will see that foreign liquor sold wholesale is taxed. I would also point out that there is a tax for opium shops. There is, therefore, nothing revolutionary in asking the opium merchants to pay a special tax or to be specially licensed. It follows the old established practice of many decades. We have been old in the paper this morning that possibly this may be considered to be obtained. It is most extraordinary how such an idea has got abroad. For many years we have taxed opium retail shops. I should like to know how this thing suddenly becomes tainted when we suggest drawing from the fat and bulging pockets of the wholesale and wealthy merchants. (Laughter.) Neither is the proposition contrary to our established laws. If you look at Bye-law 34, it says that no person shall keep or sell firearms, wines, or other drugs, unless they have first obtained the licence from the Council. It looks, therefore, as if last year we made a very great mistake in not putting on this licence tax, and by reason of that we have dropped about 10,000,000. The amendment says that foreign and Chinese merchants shall be taxed. The Council in each case will find out how much each merchant must be taxed for his licence, and that will be based on the number of chests he has. There are many reasons why this tax should now be levied upon the opium merchants. In the first place the community's legislation has made possible the acquisition of vast fortunes which have been acquired simply and solely by the licit trade. I think the best authority I can quote on this subject is Mr. Edward Ezra. I will read from his speech last year, in which he says:—"If Mr. Little's amendment is adopted there must be forced sales, and in view of the huge sums involved there must be disaster, not affecting Mr. Little and his friends doubtless, but affecting a very large number of other people." That was last year. Certain safeguards were placed upon their trade. The result has been that vast fortunes have been made, and how great are those profits and fortunes, of which we ask the modest tribute for our Municipality fund. Last year, Mr. Ezra said there were 8,000 chests of opium in Shanghai, and he said the average sale had been 4,100 a chest, and the total value of all these chests was from 30 to 40 millions. He made the final statement: "So supporting it is worth 30 millions and not 40 millions surely you are not going to confiscate it, are you? If you give me 30 millions I will give you the profit." Early in the year I addressed an open letter to Mr. Ezra, pointing out his promise, that to meeting, and claiming a number of millionaires for the community. Mr. Ezra did not think fit to reply to that open letter. (Laughter.) As he is not prepared to give to us what he has promised, we now come forward and propose to take a very small portion of it. (Loud laughter and applause.) You will remember that there are about 7,000 chests of opium valued at between 30 and 40 millions. Now in all these calculations I propose not to omit the chests but the thousands and the ten thousands of thousands. I propose to confine myself to millions only. (Laughter.) Last year in my speech I said that although the price was then about 10,000 a chest I foresaw, as a result of our resolution, that the price would advance to about 10,000 a chest. Again quote Mr. Ezra:

"I must emphatically contradict Mr. Little when he alleges that vast profits have been made. I know the facts, and can say this is far from the truth. The apparent profits, made on opium sold at the recent high prices are 10 to 12 times that counter-balanced by the losses made on that sold at the very low prices prevailing in 1912-13. Mr. Little has stated that we will miss the prices for such a statement, in fact every effort has been made and will be made to discourage a rise in prices." (Laughter.)

Quite recently a case occurred in the court of a theft of opium from an opium merchant's godown, and it was valued then at 10,000 a chest, which is really higher than even my most sanguine estimate. It is not necessary to go on the market and find that it is 10,12, 13,000, or more a chest, clear of all taxes. What was practically worth 30 millions is now worth 84 millions—a difference of 54 million dollars and above the vast profit included in the 30 millions. Was I right in saying, therefore, that vast profits had been made? The profits made were indeed stupendous.

As early as the meeting of last year they were prepared. I am prepared to follow Mr. Ezra's figures, they paid to the Chinese Government fifteen million taels, 3,600,000 each, let us say. The 15,000,000 if the Chinese Government would give them certain facilities, which they did. The opium merchants are to-day, says the public Press, negotiating with the Chinese Government for a further extension of "lease" months of their powers to sell opium and they say you will 2,000,000 additional if you will spread the time out nine months, and it is confidently expected that the price of opium will rise to 20,000 or 30,000 per chest. The Chinese Government is obtaining vast revenue from the opium. The opium merchants are obtaining vast profits and the Municipal Council, which protects them and gives them authority to carry on their business, gets not a single silver. I am asking you whether it is just, whether it is wise or whether it is right to require the Council to license these gentlemen at the rate of 1,000 per chest. We are asking 10,000,000 out of their profits of 10,000,000. These funds, if we get them and if you pass this resolution, which is just and right in every way, will provide all kinds of funds for use in the municipality. Mr. Ezra is the chairman of the Charity Organization Committee. (Laughter.) which is shortly to appeal for the payment, for aid, for some small sum of 15,000, the price of a single chest of opium. Now I am sure that when we have laid this tax upon them, that when Mr. Ezra, through his friends, asks for 15,000 we need not trouble the mover and seconder to give us long speeches for we will pass it in advance. (Laughter.) There will be no injustice upon anyone by the levying of this tax. We were told this morning in one of the papers that it would be necessary to "consider the consumer. Has the writer of that article considered what he wrote? The opium merchant is putting on a thousand tails and they have done this seven or eight times already during the last year, when they said that they would not increase the price but would put it down. They have kept it up and have put it on every available opportunity, so we ask for one of the seven or eight thousand tails which have been put upon the price. The persons that will pay the tax are the wealthy opium merchants who are able to buy large tracts of land, the richest property in Shanghai.

A VOICE—Are you jealous?

Mr. Little—Not in the least.

A VOICE—You look it.

Mr. Little—I am merely arguing on the question of whether any hardship would be inflicted upon anyone by the levying of this tax. I am trying to show it will not fall upon the poor, not upon those who are struggling for a livelihood but upon the wealthiest of our citizens and I trust you will vote for the amendment to levy the licence. (Applause.)

Mr. McIntosh—I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment. (Applause.) The CHAIRMAN—The amendment is now proposed by Mr. Little and seconded by Mr. McIntosh. Is there anyone who wishes to speak to it?

Mr. Ezra—Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, there is one thing before I proceed with my speech. I would like to ask Mr. Little where he got his quotation of 15,000 from, because as far as the opium merchants are concerned the highest price that has been reached is 9,000 and when we came to the meeting last year, the price was over 87,000. I should like Mr. Little to answer me first of all because I don't think it right that he should come before the ratepayers with misleading statements.

When you elected me to represent you on the Council, I must admit that I was deeply gratified. This was a mark of trust which is pleasing to any member. But for me, there were special reasons for feeling pleased. You knew me as a dealer in the commodity which has been the subject of considerable Municipal controversy. But you elected me. Indeed I cannot fail to recognize in this a mark of special confidence; confidence in my understanding of your requirements; confidence that I shall serve you with probity; confidence that I shall not unduly subordinate my interests to my own. You knew that I was an opium dealer, you know it now; you realize that I am an interested party, and if you did not, you would be fairly amazed.

But some interested parties there are who keep very quiet about their interests. When Mr. Little appeared before you last year, did he ever mention that he once represented an influential body of Chinese opium buyers? Never a word did he utter. And when I came to you then, arguing for the retention of rights, to which I was entitled, I forgot the inequality under which I laboured. I suppose that has now been put right. The proposer of this amendment has certainly once been an interested party.

We must, to be sure, not forget that Mr. Little is supposed to be a business man, however much he asks us to think that he is something else—say for instance, some prophetic returned to earth, and generously interfering in mundane matters which are no concern of his at all. If he is a business man he knows or it is time he did know, that you cannot expect to take a profit unless you take a risk—if you fail to take the winning you have no claim on the winning dividend.

When I made the offer to which Mr. Little referred in his silly letter to the public Press, and also again to-day, I naturally felt that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush; and as I then little guessed, not being a prophet, that the price of opium would increase as it has done, I would have gladly accepted Mr. Little's 80 millions and let him and his friends to take whatever profit they could make out of the opium; it was open to Mr. Little to accept my offer but he didn't—because he and his friends couldn't raise the 80 millions, but because he was afraid of the risk; having weighed the chances he was afraid he might lose over the transaction and so he allowed my offer to go unaccepted. Now that the risk has presumably passed, and it is evident that the stocks of opium might realize more than 80 millions—although his figures are quite misleading—Mr. Little naturally regrets his action.

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But some interested parties there are who keep very quiet about their interests. When Mr. Little appeared before you last year, did he ever mention that he once represented an influential body of Chinese opium buyers? Never a word did he utter. And when I came to you then, arguing for the retention of rights, to which I was entitled, I forgot the inequality under which I laboured. I suppose that has now been put right. The proposer of this amendment has certainly once been an interested party.

We must, to be sure, not forget that Mr. Little is supposed to be a business man, however much he asks us to think that he is something else—say for instance, some prophetic returned to earth, and generously interfering in mundane matters which are no concern of his at all. If he is a business man he knows or it is time he did know, that you cannot expect to take a profit unless you take a risk—if you fail to take the winning you have no claim on the winning dividend.

When I made the offer to which Mr. Little referred in his silly letter to the public Press, and also again to-day, I naturally felt that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush; and as I then little guessed, not being a prophet, that the price of opium would increase as it has done, I would have gladly accepted Mr. Little's 80 millions and let him and his friends to take whatever profit they could make out of the opium; it was open to Mr. Little to accept my offer but he didn't—because he and his friends couldn't raise the 80 millions, but because he was afraid of the risk; having weighed the chances he was afraid he might lose over the transaction and so he allowed my offer to go unaccepted. Now that the risk has presumably passed, and it is evident that the stocks of opium might realize more than 80 millions—although his figures are quite misleading—Mr. Little naturally regrets his action.

and instead of swallowing his regrets like a man, he coolly comes before you and wants to flick away the alleged profits, and at whose expense? At his own. Oh, no, he does not believe in being generous at his own expense; but at the expense of those who have shouldered the risk and who are consequently entitled to the so-called profits, if any.

Vociferous eloquence is all right, of course, especially in a former minister of religion, but it seems indeed a pity that he should waste his talents in bringing forward a proposal which a mere novice in business affairs would immediately recognize not only as inequitable but as amateur in the extreme, apart from any question as to its legality.

And now, as you partly entertain your interests to me, I will say what I think of this proposal, as fairly as I can, from the point of view of a Councillor. From the Municipal aspect of the matter, his proposal is indicative of surprising ignorance upon the whole theory of the Council's licensing system. Licences are issued primarily for the purpose of control, they refer to specific establishments or to vehicles, motor cars, etc. The so-called wholesale trade in liquor, liquor, is divided from sale in retail establishments (not taverns) by a distinction so narrow that there is hardly any difference; and practically speaking, the local trade might all be described as retail. The need for control of this trade and the levy of a tax in connection therewith is easily understood. But opium is a thing, the wholesale business in which you cannot control. To attempt to control a commodity which is frequently sold by brokers, in the Banks, in a Chinese house over a fence, on the street, in the Club bar, if you like, is ridiculous. If the object is not control it is revenue; but the taxation for revenue has been levied already in the wharfed dues and in the heavy retail licence fees, quadrupled this year. I am sure it is not right, nor is it your intention, to cause taxation three times over, for if you do, where are you going to stop? The amendment has certainly a savour of evasion of the sense and intention of the Land Regulations and the Treaties, which in my opinion renders it quite out of order.

A large part of the stocks are more or less intended for the interior, and it seems very unreasonable to impose additional taxes on them. Both the opium which is to be used in the Settlement and that which is destined for transmission to the interior is very heavily taxed. The Council was accused by Mr. Little, your representatives, of not living up to their pledged word. That is what he said to us in his letter of December 8, 1914. Our membership consisted chiefly of plain, British merchants; we might have been misled or misinformed; but we have always tried to keep our "pledged word." We didn't expect that. But you shall hear a little more. I am sure it will amuse you. As I say, we're rather sore. But on December 18, hardly a week after his letter, while sitting in the Council Room, I received a revelation. It was not an angel who knew; it was not an angel who told; it was his informant. This is how the minute reads describing the revelation:

"I am directed that an expression of thanks be conveyed to the Missionary Association for submitting the views of the members information. (Applause.) There's nothing queer about that;—then it goes on:—"In the light of Mr. E. S. Little's recent representation, the members learn with considerable diversion of certain overtures which he has made to Mr. Ezra, and the course of negotiations into which he has entered with the design of acquiring the whole of the stocks by purchase, acting as the representative of a clique of Chinese influential."

There we are, you see. However, he was apparently not so easily influenced by misgivings about what people are likely to think. For listen to him a few days later, on December 28:

"I think it will be a most unfortunate record for the Shanghai Foreign Community to go down to history as being the last important city in the Republic to fall in line with this great National Reform movement."

These are his words. About his negotiations with me, of course, he said nothing; not later on, at the Ratepayers' Meeting. Well, of course, I suppose he is as disinterested as he would have us think; but when a man is trying to frighten traders and confiscate their holdings on the ground that it is immoral, he would do well not to approach them with the quiet offer to take the stuff off their hands at a rather full price. Of course Mr. Little was aware of this, but he succeeded in purchasing our stocks, it was only to be used for medicinal purposes; but he knew we knew that no questions would be asked if this "medicinal" opium went through a pipe and ended in smoke. Ladies and gentlemen, at last year's meeting I had the pleasure of breaking a lance with Mr. Little on this same subject of opium. Indeed so much of a polemic has this become with him that were it not for the lofty standing he holds in the community we might think he had an axe to grind. Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, and as the Chairman of the Council told you last year, this trade is automatically and quickly coming to a close; to try now to worry this doomed trade, like haggling a dead horse. Yes, much of our valuable time simply because he wishes to nag at us—surely he cannot be so serious in thinking any Municipality can mistreat people, because some irresponsible gentleman makes it a hobby to be so particular about it. Truly if it were any one else but Mr. Little, we would not even think him anxious or anxious to advertise himself somehow or other. Besides, would Mr. Little support me for a contribution on each bale of piece goods that is sold—that is, if it were not so disgruntled enough to ask it? I was required to raise the wind. If it is required in some other direction; let him for instance tackle the huge profits in chemicals, rubber, and dyes, metals, stationery, freight, and so on; but for goodness sake leave us alone without badgering us about opium every time he meets us.

Mr. Little—There is not much profit in that.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen, let me put a few questions to you, though I do not expect any back. What is Mr. Little's object? Of course we know that he has never hidden his light under a bushel. I said light—means a nose in the end. What does he want? Does he mean to use us to compensate him upon his life of the past? Will his thirst for notoriety permit him to stop at no measure, however grotesque, in order to attract attention? No, no, it can't be that; and yet... last year Mr. Little would not touch this trade with a barge-pole, and today he comes forward with a proposal to identify himself and you with the high price under the belief that the Council and ratepayers permitted these retail sales for a period of two years from last year—to come now on them and tell them they are mislead. Of 1,000,000 chests, because I or somebody else made a profit, is the most up-to-date legislation that could be imposed by any community and I am positive this community will never sanction it.

Mr. E. S. Little—Mr. Chairman, will you accept from me some word of personal explanation after these very personal statements of Mr. Ezra that I was interested myself in the purchase of opium? Voice—Yes. Mr. Little—Let me give you the brief facts and you will see how very wrong Mr. Ezra has been and how utterly discarded he must be for making such a statement. Before the last ratepayers' meeting when I was proposed to close Shanghai to the sale of opium, I was in negotiation with a number of Chinese reformers, who did not take opium, who did not deal in opium, who had nothing whatever to do with the sale or consumption of opium, in any way, shape or form, to take the Central Government to task from Mr. Ezra and his friends the whole of the stocks of opium in Shanghai at 15,000 per chest; that the whole of this should be done with the sanction of His Majesty's Ministers. I was very positive that these suggestions were laid for his approval. The whole of the opium was to be in the hands of the banks and not one single ounce of it was to be issued except under Government control and knowledge, with the knowledge of the banks, for medicinal purposes or pollution if necessary. That was the principle in outline brought before the Chinese Government and before the British Government and

THE WAR.

TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail)

DARING BRITISH NAVAL
EXPLOIT.SEAPLANE RAID ON SCHLESWIG-
HOLSTEIN.

London, Mar. 26. It is officially announced that British seaplanes yesterday morning attacked the German airship sheds at Schleswig-Holstein, east of the island of Sylt.

They were conveyed close to the German coast by an escort of light cruisers and destroyers under Commander Tyrwhitt.

Three seaplanes are missing. The destroyers *Medusa* and *Lave* were caught in collision and it is feared that in the stormy weather last night the *Medusa* may have been lost.

There are no fears for the safety of the crew.

Our destroyers sank two German armed patrol vessels.

Details have not been received by Danish Press messages indicate that the operation achieved its object.

THE "SUSSEX"
OUTRAGE.

FOUR AMERICANS MISSING.

AMERICAN STOCKS DECLINE
SHARPLY.

London, March 27. They were 23 Americans on the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Co's cross-channel steamer, the *Sussex*, including several prominent people.

Eight of these are missing and some are in hospital.

Mr. Huxley, President of the United States Rubber Export Company, told a Reuter's correspondent, that after a momentary panic, the ship became apparent that the afterpart of the steamer was in immediate danger of sinking. The passengers then got busy succouring the injured and extricating bodies from the debris.

The United States Embassy has sent to Washington affidavits by Mr. Huxley and others.

In Washington it is officially stated that four Americans are missing.

The new outrages have created an intense feeling in America and stocks in New York have declined sharply.

THE DESTROYED COMMERCE
RAIDER.THE ALCAANTARA'S GALLANT
FIGHT.

London, March 26. The German commerce-raider *Greif* (sunk in an engagement with the British merchant cruiser *Alcantara*) was, like the *Mouze*, armed with two 7-inch and six 4-in guns and was fitted with three torpedo tubes. She was really a light protected cruiser.

Finding no loophole in the British cordon, she was proceeding homeward leisurely, so as not to attract attention. When the *Alcantara* hailed her, the two ships were 300 yards apart.

When the British captain megaphoned enquiring particulars he received, a reply in perfect Norwegian, but as the raider looked suspicious, the *Alcantara* lowered a boat, whereupon the *Greif* fired, killing most of the boatmen.

The *Alcantara* was hopelessly out-matched in the matter of guns, but fine gunnery and seamanship redressed the balance.

The *Alcantara* did not escape hard knocks, but the pounding was all in her favour until she was apparently struck by a torpedo.

The two ships battered themselves to pieces.

The *Greif* foundered first, and after twelve minutes the *Alcantara* sank.

Shortly afterwards British destroyers picked up the survivors, and it is reported, sank a German submarine.

The German survivors were conveyed to Edinburgh.

BRITISH STEAMER SUNK.

Rottterdam, March 26. The British steamer *Pennsylvania* has been sunk. The crew have been landed.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE
IN BALKANS.GREECE EVACUATING CIVILIANS
FROM DOIRAN REGION.

ATHENS, Mar. 26. The Germans have started the offensive in the Doiran region. The French are successfully resisting the attack.

The Greek Government is doing its utmost to hasten the evacuation of civilians from the fighting zone, especially Gherghebi, which M. Dragumis, the Minister of Finance, described as being on the eve of invasion by the Central Powers.

GREATEST DEFEAT
OF THE WAR.LORD NORTHCOT ON THE
BATTLE OF VERDUN.

London, Mar. 26. Lord Northcliffe, interviewed on his return from France, said the battle of Verdun would confine much longer because the Germans after their unprecedented preparations would not dare to cease their attacks. Their failure to capture Verdun would be the greatest defeat of the war.

He knew the exact number of the French losses. They were very small compared with the losses of the Germans, whose communications were mostly lies.

His visit to France had more than ever convinced him of the ultimate victory of the Allies.

The British had helped the French by taking over another portion of their line. The French most warmly praise the great improvement in the British Army. "We are worrying the Germans and giving them no rest," Lord Northcliffe said, and added: "German prisoners told me they were glad to be away from the infernal English."

THE PARIS CONFERENCE.

ITALIAN MINISTERS ARRIVE.

Paris, March 27. Signor Salandra (Prime Minister of Italy) and Baron Sonnino (Italian Foreign Minister) arrived in Paris last evening.

M. Briand and other Ministers met them at the station and the crowd gave them a tremendous welcome.

TORPEDOING OF "TUBANTIA"
CONFIRMED.

THE HAGUE, Mar. 26. Confirmation that the Dutch liner *Tubantia* was torpedoed comes from the Ministry of Marine, where pieces of metal found in two of the *Tubantia*'s boats were examined and proved to be part of a torpedo.

DUTCH CONVOYS FOR
MERCHANTSHIPS.

AMSTERDAM, March 26. It is officially announced that the Government, on behalf of Dutch merchantmen will place a vessel equipped with a wireless installation near the Noordhinder Lightship and will provide convoys of tugs and minesweepers to British waters.

MARK FALLS AGAIN IN DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN, March 26. The price of the mark has again fallen severely.

THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

FIGHTING AT MANY POINTS.

PETROGRAD, Mar. 27. To-day's *communique* says:—A German offensive in the Mitau railway district was repulsed. Westward of Dvinsk we captured an enemy trench and prisoners. Desperate fighting continues north-west of Pustava and in the region of Lake Naroch.

Enemy attacks were repulsed west of Deraio and at the junction of the Strypa and Dniester.

We are vigorously progressing in Upper Cherkass, Caucasus, ousting the Turks from heights defended by lines of trenches.

We have made considerable advance south-west of Bittis.

WESTERN FRONT.

CONTINUED ACTIVITY IN THE
MEUSE REGION.

PARIS, Mar. 26.

A *communique* says:—West of the Meuse there was a most violent bombardment last night at Malancourt, Ennes and Hill 304. There was no infantry attack.

East of the Meuse there was calm. There was some artillery activity in Woivre. The Germans attempted two *coup-de-main* at Bois-de-Pretre, but were driven off by rifle fire, leaving a number of dead.

We bombarded convoys in the Vosges.

Two French aeroplanes at night time dropped 16 heavy bombs on the enemy bivouacs northward of Malancourt.

PARIS, Mar. 27.

To-day's *communique* says:—West of the Meuse there was a violent bombardment between the village and wood of Malancourt and of our second line. There was no infantry action.

There was an intermittent cannonade east of the Meuse and in Woivre.

Our artillery was active along the whole front, causing explosions at several points.

Our long-range guns shelled the station of Vigneulles and Hatten Chatel.

We shelled enemy communications in Argonne and their defences in the Vosges.

A French pilot brought down a German aeroplane at Douaumont.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

MINOR ACTIVITY.

LONDON, Mar. 27.

A British *communique* says:—The enemy exploded mines yesterday near Grechny and Neuville St. Vaust and occupied the crater of the latter. Our counter-attack took the crater, but we were driven back later by enemy bombers.

There has been activity with trench-mortars and rifle-grenades today at Hohenzollern Redoubt and the quarries.

The enemy shelled Kruisstraat, Hoek St. Jean, the neighbourhood of Loos, the Lorette spur and Vaux.

We retaliated by blowing up an ammunition depot near Oost Taverne.

One of our aeroplanes went out yesterday and did not return.

BRITISH PRISONERS RESCUED.

LONDON, Mar. 26.

It is officially reported that the two missing British prisoners in the hands of the *Sussex* have been rescued.

NEW RUSSIAN MINISTER TO CHINA.

PETROGRAD, March 26.

Prince Koudoscheff has been appointed Ambassador to China.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH AND GERMAN CREDIT COMPARED.

NEUTRAL CERTAIN OF ENEMY'S DEFEAT.

LONDON, March 25.

Reuter understands that the official view relative to the position of British and German credit is that whereas the depreciation of sterling is comparatively trivial, the mark has fallen between 25 and 30 per cent. throughout the world. This is most interesting as showing the certainty of neutrals that the Germans will be defeated. They have been buying and paying for raw material abroad although knowing that this cannot be delivered until after the war, thus showing that they prefer to hold cotton and copper than marks. In other words, Germany has been selling "bears" of marks. Although she cannot without interference export to Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland the depreciation in these countries is greater than in America.

AIM OF THE RUSSIANS.

VILNA-DVINSK RAILWAY.

PARIS, March 26.

The Russians are aiming at the Vilna-Dvinsk railway. If they are successful the Germans will only have the Baltic line, and will thus be paralyzed.

FIGHTING IN AFRICA.

GENERAL SMUTS' SUCCESS.

NATANI, March 26.

An official announcement states that as the result of General Smuts' Twa fight against the main forces of the enemy we are in undisputed possession of the Kibanzang and Arusha areas.

RUSSIAN PROGRESS IN RIGA AND
DVINSK REGIONS.

PETROGRAD, March 26.

A *communique* states:—We have developed a success south-east of the Angerehoff sector, at Jacobstadt, capturing, after a desperate action, a fortified region and the village of Lepaun.

Furious German attacks and counter-attacks were repulsed.

Our advance has continued in the Drinsk region. We forced numerous obstacles north of Viday, under heavy fire, in an attack on a position north-west of Lake S-kly.

The situation is unchanged in Galicia. The advance continues in the Caucasus.

TURKS SURPRISED ON TIGRIS.

ENEMY DOWNTOWN KUT.

LONDON, March 25.

It is officially announced that forces operating on the right bank of the Tigris surprised and seized a small Turkish post, named Fakhayeh, on the night of March 15th. Our casualties were four.

General Townshend reports that enemy aircraft and artillery bombarded Kut at intervals between March 21st and 23rd. Our casualties were slight. The situation is unchanged.

THE SHAGLETON EXPEDITION.

MELBOURNE, March 25.

The wireless station at Awaru, New Zealand, communicating with the *Aurora* last night, learned that the *Aurora* is proceeding under her own steam, and assistance is apparently not needed.

THE CHINESE REVOLUTION.

COMMERCIAL HELD UP.

SHANGHAI, March 25.

Owing to the commandeering of all boats for the transport of troops, cargoes of piase goods and yara, to the value of 4,000,000 taels, cannot be forwarded to Szechuan.

THE BRITISH FRONT.

RECIPROCAL ATTACKS.

LONDON, March 26.

A British *communique* states:—The enemy last night sprang a mine near the Hohenzollern Redoubt. They entered one trench but were driven out by bombs.

We today bombed enemy trenches near Bois de Blanch, badly damaging a hundred yards of parapet. The enemy's reply was feeble.

Enemy artillery were active today near Berthouval, Nevre Chapelle, Voormezeele, Ypres and Wiltje. Our artillery retaliated.

"SUSSEX" CASUALTIES.

FIFTY PERSONS KILLED.

PARIS, March 26.

An official announcement states that about fifty persons were killed when the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Co's steamer *Sussex* was torpedoed.

The Ministry of Marine announces that the *Sussex* was torpedoed.

DIVIDENDS OF RUBBER COMPANIES.

A London cable, dated March 16th states that interim dividends are announced as follows: Tremalby 20 per cent, Rombia 7 1/2, Lendu 4, Federated Selangor 30 and the Malay Planters, Taiping, Permas and Batak Rabis 5 per cent, each and Harpenden a final of 40 per cent.

A PORTUGUESE SENSATION AT SHANGHAI.

INDIGNATION MEETING AT MACAO.

A great indignation meeting was held in the Public Gardens at Macao yesterday, in connection with a sensation caused in the Portuguese community at Shanghai in circumstances related in the following report which we take from the *China Press* of March 21st:—

Ten persons were convicted in the Portuguese Consular Court, yesterday, on charges of having been concerned in issuing pamphlets and other wise attacking the character of Consul-General Barjona de Freitas. The consul-general sat as judge in the case, which were heard in camera.

Many of the men are prominent in the Portuguese community here. One of them, Mr. O. J. da Silva, is one of the best known Portuguese attorneys in the Far East. Mr. da Silva fired at the party which came to his house on Saturday night to serve him with a subpoena.

On a conviction connected with the attacks on the consul, Mr. da Silva was sentenced to one month in prison. He is yet to be tried on the charge that grew out of firing the revolver.

Most of the convicted men were put under suspended sentences that are to take effect during the next two years if their conduct is thought to warrant it. The accused and their sentences follow:—

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THE SENTENCES.

Mr. F. F. Leito, deportation to Macao for 6 months.

Mr. F. A. Leito (son of the above), 3 days imprisonment. Sentence suspended.

Mr. A. Marques da Silva, 25 days imprisonment.

Mr. J. F. da Silva, 15 days imprisonment. Sentence suspended.

Mr. J. M. da Figueiredo, 15 days imprisonment. Sentence suspended.

Mr. A. Xavier, 15 days imprisonment.

Mr. F. Costa, 10 days imprisonment. Sentence suspended.

Mr. J. M. da Silva, 10 days imprisonment. Sentence suspended.

Mr. J. M. P. da Assumpcao, 5 months deportation to Macao.

Mr. d'Assumpcao was convicted under a previous charge of having written the pamphlets attacking the consul. On this conviction he was sentenced to one month in prison. At the end of this term he is to be deported to Macao during the time of the second sentence.

None of the men had lawyers for their defence, except the one who was lawyer himself. This was due in part to the fact that most of the Portuguese attorneys in the city were among the prisoners. Both Mr. Marques da Silva and Mr. C. J. da Silva are lawyers.

ATTORNEYS NOT ALLOWED.

The latter has held positions of importance in Macao, having been at one time acting Chief Justice there. It was not possible for the prisoners to receive the services of attorneys belonging to other nationalities as they would not have been allowed to practice in the Portuguese Court.

Besides, an officer of the court said after the trials were finished, that attorneys would not have done any good as the proceedings were summary ones.

Mr. G. d'Almeida Santos acted as marshal of the court. He said that the law under which the men were tried had been passed in Lisbon especially to cover this particular case—a fact which he pointed to as an indication that the home government did not side with the public opinion of the pumple.

Mr. d'Almeida said that the new legislation was an addition to the police regulations. He gave the following translation of it:—

"Any person making himself undesirable by his behaviour or intelligence, or that might be prejudicial to the general welfare of the community, or who should detract from the prestige of the Portuguese authorities in Shanghai, may be punished by a penalty not to exceed 1 month in prison, or expulsion for six months."

Mr. d'Almeida said that the proceedings of the afternoon were of a summary nature and he accused could not make a defense.

Newspaper men and friends of the accused were not allowed in the room where the hearings were held. A number of police of the Foreign Settlements were there to keep order. It was evident that there was little need for them as the accused and their friends took the matter with calm philosophy.

Mr. d'Almeida emphasized the fact that the charges against Mr. C. J. da Silva because he resisted the summons were of a grave nature.

THE MEETING AT MACAO.

At the Mass Meeting held in Macao yesterday a resolution was passed and was introduced by the Chairman of the Municipal Council, other members present being Liout Velhinho Correa, Mr. Luis Lissaco, and Mr. G. Sernandes. The resolution was adopted at the Governor's copy of a resolution which had been adopted at the Mass Meeting, protesting against the arbitrary action of the Portuguese Consul General in Shanghai, by the arrest, imprisonment and deportation of certain leading members of the community there.

The delegation further asked His Excellency to telegraph to Lisbon and transmit a copy of the resolution. His Excellency promised to do so. The delegation then retired after thanking the Governor.

A telegram was subsequently sent to the Portuguese Consul at Shanghai, Canton and Hongkong, to join in the protest against an abuse of power by the Portuguese Consul General at Shanghai.

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